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19 March 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Indonesia: The army is following up yesterday's action against leftist cabinet ministers.

Army commander Suharto has appointed replacements for the 15 detained ministers. Three of these appointees are army officers who already hold cabinet posts, and the others are moderate civilians. Replacing Subandrio--the army's primary target--as head of the cabinet presidium and foreign minister are, respectively, the Sultan of Jogjakarta and Adam Malik. Both have worked with the army since last October.

This reshuffled cabinet apparently is to be only an interim government. The army hopes shortly to replace the present 100-man government with a considerably smaller one.

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Suharto has ordered all schools and universities reopened and normal routines resumed. Although student agitation seems to have played a major role in enabling the army to act, Suharto obviously wants to get the youth off the streets as soon as possible.

President Sukarno has retired to his palace in Bogor. He will probably continue to maneuver to regain at least the appearance of political initiative. His assets, however, seem now to be so greatly reduced that his efforts are likely to be ineffective.

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France-USSR: [De Gaulle has indicated privately that his trip to Moscow in June is unlikely to be marked by signature of any formal political pact.]

[In a conversation on 12 March with Maurice Schumann, president of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly, De Gaulle reacted negatively to the idea floated earlier by Soviet Ambassador Zorin that the visit should produce a nonaggression treaty between France and the Soviet Union. De Gaulle said there would be a regular communiqué but nothing more. Schumann quoted De Gaulle as saying he did not see how such a treaty could be signed while French and Soviet policies on Germany continued to differ.]

[The Soviets have no illusion that essential problems of European security--the German question in particular--can be settled with France alone.]

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Cuba: Castro's recent actions may result from deepening personal frustrations over the regime's continuing inability to surmount basic economic and administrative problems.

The current plan to dismiss a number of regime officials, explained as getting rid of "playboys," seems designed to restore dynamism to Castro's regime and revive revolutionary enthusiasm among the masses. The recent show trial of Major Cubela, sentenced for plotting to assassinate Castro, probably had the same goal and was also meant to discourage other antiregime plotters.

Castro's efforts over the last 18 months to cope with persistent economic problems have had only mixed results. For example, he has admitted publicly that this year's sugar harvest will barely exceed five million tons, 1.5 million tons short of the goal. He must have serious doubts that Cuba's ambitious goal of producing ten million tons of sugar annually by 1970 will be met.

Armed Forces Vice Minister Ameijeiras' dismissal on 17 March launched Castro's "purge of dilettantes." Ameijeiras [redacted] has long been in disfavor because of incompetence. Castro has said that "no more than 50" officials will be removed, but a number of others may lose their jobs as he searches for new scapegoats or as those who are ousted implicate others. [redacted]

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Dominican Republic: Juan Bosch continues to plan his presidential campaign while protesting that a suitable climate for holding elections has not been established.

In a meeting with Ambassadors Bennett and Bunker on 16 March, Bosch admitted that conditions are improving but reiterated that there is not time to organize a campaign and that the possibility of terrorism precludes holding a Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) national convention. He then shifted ground to concede that the situation might change enough in the next two weeks to make an election race possible.

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It is probable that Bosch himself has not yet made up his mind whether to run and is trying to get the provisional regime and the US to take measures so that he can campaign freely. He probably continues to be deeply concerned about military opposition to any regime he may head, and may seek to postpone the race if he does not think he can be elected and remain in office.

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Pakistan: [The Indo-Pakistani war last fall revived long-standing fears among East Pakistan's Bengali inhabitants that the central government operates primarily for the benefit of West Pakistan. Three major opposition parties in the eastern province have now put forward programs for provincial autonomy barely short of independence. Members of the provincial government seem unable or unwilling to meet this separatist challenge. The controversy is hampering Ayub's efforts to return the country to normal, and he may have to impose restrictions on political activities and thus appear even more authoritarian as he moves to counter rising opposition in East Pakistan.]

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France-NATO: [Maurice Schumann, the President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French National Assembly and a supporter of De Gaulle, has told US Embassy officers in Paris that he is certain there is no timetable for the evacuation of US forces from France or for the departure of SHAPE. Schumann, who talked with De Gaulle on 12 March, said that De Gaulle twice indicated it would take "more than a year" to move everything.]

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Kennedy Round: [European industrial circles may increasingly be opposed to any substantial reduction of tariffs in the Kennedy Round without "equivalent progress" in eliminating other barriers to trade, such as US customs regulations. This position, advanced in a study prepared for the Federation of Belgian Industries (FIB), is reportedly shared by French, Italian, and to some extent Dutch industrialists. The US Embassy in Brussels notes that FIB interests are likely to be more strongly represented in the new Belgian government than in its predecessor.]

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